

**Groups in Clark County represented
by the Parent Coalition include:**

After the Tears

Andrew Kaser Children's Guild

ARC of Clark County

Autism Cadre

Autism Community Services

Autism Society of Washington, Clark County Chapter

Autism Support & Training

Children's Center

Children's System of Care

Clark County Interagency Coordinating Council

Down Syndrome Support Group

Elks – Children's Therapy

Evergreen Early Childhood Center

Head Start – EOC of Clark County

Homes For Community Living

IEP Advocates

Parent to Parent

People First

PRIDE For Kids

Sib Shop

Special Olympics

SWIRL Club

United Cerebral Palsy

United Partners Sp. Ed. Advocates

Vancouver Children's Therapy Center

Vancouver Parks & Recreation Special Olympics

Clark County
DD Parent Coalition
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Clark County Developmental Disabilities Program

PARENT COALITION



**Clark County DD
Parent Coalition**

Coordinator call (360) 397-2130

What Is The Parent Coalition?

The Clark County Developmental Disabilities Parent Coalition (Parent Coalition) is a project funded by the Clark County Developmental Disabilities Program.

The purpose of the Parent Coalition is to provide people with disabilities and their families with a support system that:

- Links them with their natural support system – the community.
- Helps them to better understand and access the system.
- Responds to crisis.
- Involves them in decision making at the state and local levels.
- Provides current, accurate information and networking opportunities.
- Forms a power base to advocate for the needs of people with disabilities in our community.
- Helps new parent groups get established and serves as a resource for leadership in new and existing groups.

How Does The Parent Coalition Work?

The Parent Coalition is being organized by a Coordinator in cooperation with parent organizations and networks in Clark County.

The Coordinator will gather pertinent information from all areas, including state and county government, service providers and advocacy/planning organizations. This information will then be distributed by mailings and/or meetings with members of the Parent Coalition.

The Parent Coalition members will in turn distribute the information to members of their parent groups. They will be advised on how to proceed with the information, i. e. call or write their legislators, let the other interested parties know, etc.

Parents may be asked to sit on various advisory committees or task forces in order to effect policy and present a parents' perspective on issues.

Coordinator will help organize community meetings and forums for the purpose of educating, sharing and discussing issues of mutual concern.

Goals

To increase awareness of how the service delivery system works and resources available to people with developmental disabilities, their families and friends.

To develop community understanding and support of people with developmental disabilities.

To assist parents in understanding issues and procedures so that they will be better able to protect the interests of their children before a crisis occurs – whether it be a family crisis or a budget crisis.

To provide an opportunity to become familiar with legislators and the legislative process, how it impacts the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities and how to effectively impact that system at a level that is comfortable.

If you need more information, have questions, or would like to become involved in the Parent Coalition, please contact the Parent Coalition Coordinator at (360) 397-2130 or TTY (360) 397-6065.